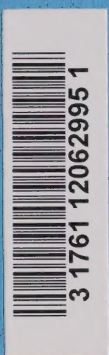


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Anglican Clergy

CAPE BRETON DEANERY  
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THE RAND COMMISSION ON COAL (1959)

Mr Justice Ivan Rand,  
Sir,

We, the Anglican Clergy of Cape Breton Deanery, Diocese of Nova Scotia, respectfully submit for your consideration the following brief statement on the moral and social factors which, we believe, are involved in the problems of our communities in the coal area. Others will deal quite adequately with the economic factors, and we share in the general concern. However, while we acknowledge that the economic and social factors are inseparable, we beg your indulgence to allow us to emphasize the moral and the social implications rather than the economic.

First, we state our belief that moral and social causes, as well as economic, lie at the root of our problems in the coal industry. We believe it is an oversimplification to state that our economic problems are the automatic responses to economic causes. We must not regard society primarily as an economic machine. To do so is to accept a counsel of despair. In our present situation we believe that the causes of our problems are social and moral, as well as economic.

Therefore we affirm that there is need of a new point of view (rather than the purely economic one) in industry. It is personality that is sacred, and not economic values. We must proclaim the doctrine of the value of personality, the infinite worth of the individual, the supremacy of the children of men over profits, machines and organizations, --that human values must come first.

We acknowledge that it is difficult to do this in drastic competition, nevertheless, the captains of industry must order their business on the basis of human values--the human element first. If industry will not do so, then government must be called upon for positive and constructive measures to ensure that it is done. In the frequent conflict between what is economically feasible and what is socially necessary, that which is socially necessary must take precedence. Human values must not be sacrificed on the field of economic feasibility. This is generally true, but we believe it applies particularly to our present problems and the solutions. In areas such as ours, where activity or inactivity in the coal industry affects, for life or death, the whole community economically, socially, morally, psychologically, we believe that the approach to the problems, their causes and results, should be primarily on the basis of human values rather than economic values.

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Secondly, just as there are social and economic forces which produce our problems, so the problems themselves are not primarily economic, but social as well. Statistics make very clear the economic problems, but statistics are only inadequate indicators of desperate social, moral and psychological effects.

Down through the history of our coal mines, uncertainty, instability, the constant threat of unemployment, have always left their mark on the people and communities. This is evident in the psychological outlook, as well as in the outward appearances of our mining communities.

Further closures and increased unemployment will make the dislocation of social life intolerable. To the economic suffering will have to be added the incalculable moral and psychological cost of such profound dislocations of social life. There are many examples in the areas of education, public health, housing, morals, and others. The degradation, the frustration, all the devastating effects of unemployment or partial employment, of uncertainty and instability are immeasurable. We cite especially a problem which is basic in the modern social order. Economic distress is devastating to the home and family, the very foundation of society. This can only result in upheavals which are universal in their implications.

In conclusion, we state that it is not for us, at the present time, to offer a social, any more than an economic blueprint for the solution of the problems. Abstract as this brief may appear to be, it is our hope that it will nevertheless help to proclaim some basic moral and social principles which must govern all efforts at producing solutions, that it will prompt answers which may be classified under three main heads:

- (1) Long-range and far-reaching solutions, which remove the causes of our economic and social problems should be sought and applied, not 'ad hoc' remedial measures, various social services and benefits which may diminish unemployment and mitigate its hardships temporarily, but do not remove the basic causes of our problems, and sometimes increase the sense of frustration.
- (2) The worker should have a voice in the policy and conduct of the industry in which he is engaged.
- (3) Human welfare must be placed above all other considerations in arriving at solutions.

We firmly believe that when the structure of society conforms to this last basic principle, we are well on the way, under God, to laying the foundation for the full and complete life for all citizens, which is their God-given right.









